



DRUG COURT – BEADLE, BROOKINGS & CODINGTON COUNTIES

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

For Immediate Release

Brookings County Drug Court Celebrates First Graduation

The Third Judicial Circuit is proud to announce Brookings County's First Drug Court Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony will commence on **Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 1pm at the Brookings County Courthouse – Third Floor, 314 6th Avenue in Brookings, SD.** The keynote address will be given by the Honorable David Gilbertson, Chief Justice of the SD Supreme Court. The public is invited to attend.

The Brookings County Drug Court began in July 2016 and is one of sixteen problem solving courts in the state. Brookings County Drug Court is currently serving twelve participants.

Brookings County States Attorney and member of the Brookings County Drug Court team, Abigail Howard, describes how Drug Court benefits Brookings County, "The Brookings County Drug Court Program is a new alternative sentencing option that is offered to felony drug offenders who struggle with drug addiction. The Program is geared towards helping those individuals in our community who are not violent offenders or drug dealers, but merely people who are struggling with an addiction that has led them to make poor decisions in an effort to salvage their addiction and unhealthy lifestyle. Through the work of the Program, participants are able to rebuild their life by finding a healthier peer group, obtaining a good job, paying off debt, giving back through community service, and focusing on their families and children, all while participating in mental health and chemical dependency treatment. Drug Court is an asset to Brookings County by helping change individuals who have caused countless problems in our community, into people who are productive, responsible, and caring citizens. I am honored to work with such a Program and see the benefits it brings to those involved."

Tiffany H. represents what Drug Court is doing for a lifelong Brookings resident who was addicted to methamphetamines for 30 years. Not only will she have accumulated 600 plus days of continuous sobriety by her graduation date, Tiffany has paid over \$1800 in court fines, costs and restitution. Although Tiffany is familiar with the inside of a prison cell, remarkably she was able to remain incarceration free during her time in the program, a task that most addicts will not achieve during their time in this intensive treatment program. Join us in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of this graduate. A reception will be held following the ceremony.

Drug Courts are specially designed criminal dockets aimed at reducing criminal recidivism and substance abuse while increasing the likelihood of successful rehabilitation for adults with substance use disorders charged with drug related offenses.

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